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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OREP](#) [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [AFIN](#) [SP](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR CODEL HASTINGS

REF: A. A. SECSTATE 98972

[B. B. BOWERS/GRIDDINE EMAILS](#)

[1](#)1. Embassy warmly welcomes Representative Alcee Hastings to travel to Madrid, Spain from June 6-10, 2005. The purpose of this visit is to attend the Annual Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

[1](#)2. Administrative POC for CODEL Hastings is EconOff Stephanie Bowers, TEL: 34-91-587-2399; CELL: 34-91-699-447-981; Home: 34-91-431-4847; E-Mail: BowersS@state.gov.

[1](#)3. Per REF B, Embassy will pre-purchase round-trip AVE train tickets from Madrid to Cordoba for CODEL Hastings. Embassy will also facilitate transfers between the airport and train stations in Madrid. Embassy staff deployed in Cordoba will facilitate transfers between the Cordoba train station and the conference hotel.

[1](#)4. Reservations have been made the nights of June 7-10 at Hotel Conquistador, located on c/Magistral Gonzalez Frances, 15 (TEL: 34-957-481-102; FAX: 34-957-474-677). Hotel rate is EUR 166.27 for a single room and includes breakfast and VAT. Please advise soonest if CODEL will depart Cordoba prior to the morning of June 10.

[1](#)5. Visitors are reminded that bearers of diplomatic and official passports coming to Spain on official business need to obtain a Spanish visa prior to arrival to Spain.

[1](#)4. THREAT ASSESSMENT:

In general, Spain is safe. However, Madrid, Barcelona and other large cities in Spain --including resort/convention areas such as Benidorm-- attract a large number of criminals and pickpockets and frequent incidents of crime of opportunity against the unwary do occur. Carry only essential items including a photocopy of your passport's photo page. Visitors can protect themselves against crime by being street-smart, alert and aware of their surroundings. In the event you are victimized by crime, or experience any security-related incident, please contact the Embassy's Regional Security Office at 91-587-2550 or after hours at 91-587-2355. Official visitors to the Embassy in Madrid or the Consulate General in Barcelona are encouraged to receive a security briefing from the RSO office at their earliest convenience. Additional information regarding safety and security in Spain is available on the U.S. Department of State's website (www.embusa.es).

Travelers are encouraged to review the most recent Worldwide Caution issued by the Department of State. As the Department of State continues to develop information on any potential security threats to Americans overseas, it shares credible threat information through its Consular Information Program documents, available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. In addition to information on the Internet, U.S. travelers can hear recorded information by calling the Department of State in Washington, D.C. at 202-647-5225 from their touch-tone telephone, or receive information by automated telefax by dialing 202-647-3000 from their fax machine.

MANZANARES